

GUADEC 2014 report

“I know that I know nothing.”

Carl Xiong

SUSE Software Engineer

xiongc05@gmail.com



GUADEC in pictures



GUADEC in pictures (cont....)

• Want to see more?

- A good gallery showcase:
 - <http://www.gnome.org/news/2014/08/guadec-2014-in-pictures/>
- And find more on Flickr or other blogs...

But, for
now, let's
go back to
the
reports...



The Report Begins here....

Who am I?

And who am I not?

I joined SUSE as Desktop Engineer last June. Throughout the previous year, my duty has mainly been feature tweaking and bug fixing for GNOME Shell in SLE-12. I was attracted to Linux out of personal interests. Early on, I had used GNOME 2 for some time, but later I switched to "lightweight WM + various applications" combination in day-to-day use.

I am NOT really a GNOME fan. I am NOT in favor of the directions the GNOME is heading. I am NOT very experienced with most topics covered in GUADEC.

Wayland

- The speaker is very enthusiastic. Very hot discussions.
- Security issues in Xorg: the “evil” global sharing.
 - The introduction of strong security and separation results in reduced functionalities: no color picker, implementing screenshot app is hard (separate protocols) and etc.
- Direct rendering and drivers: free graphic drivers work mostly, but not for proprietary ones.
- Performance? Don't expect too much.
 - At least the first several releases won't see any advantages on performance.
- Wayland is multiple-purpose interface.
- A side note: CSD Windows on Wayland: no consensus.

Wayland (opinions)

- 5+ yrs and still far immature to be competitive to Xorg. It might take very long to replace Xorg in Desktop, if ever.
 - Rumours has it the Xorg is learning from Wayland.
- “Multi-purpose” these days usually means “Mobile comes first”.
- On the mobile end, the look on the contests with Surfaceflinger(Android) is not very good.
 - Mir is forking Surfaceflinger, it's said.
- The emphasis on security as to sacrifice usability is worrying.
- Not sure about whether in the long term, DM is still relevant.

Documents and Photos: Content App

- Design highlights
 - Timed deletion, no undo.
 - Minimal chrome.
 - Content frontend for a bunch of online resources.
 - Nautilus-next
 - Preview
 - Content selection
 - GNOME books
 - GtkFlowBox: better item/thumbnaill view.

Documents and Photos (Q&A)

- Integration of User Tags
 - A: only categories now. No immediate plan for tags for now.
- Integration of smarter backend like Zeitgeist.
 - No plan. Current top priority is making it useful by being able to collaborate with multiple online services.

Gtk Dialog & Clutter to Gtk migration

- Gtk Dialog
 - HIG (Human Interface Guidelines)
 - Some new features of dialog design is not available in Glade (due to complexity and lack of manpower)
- Clutter to Gtk migration
 - No ppt.
 - ...So toolkits decide how apps are designed.
 - Draw directly on GL.
 - Broadway backend
 - Gtk+ in web browser
 - Cairo limitations ?

IBus TNG

- Input method is a problem more important to CJK.
- Algorithms: partition, candidates filtering and etc.
- New/Better UI: predictive input, cloud syncing (privacy issue?), handwriting.
 - The relation/competition with other IMs?
- Overhaul IBus architecture
 - Currently: ibus-daemon is a replica of dbus-daemon.
 - Future: no ibus-daemon, all engines registered as normal DBus services.

Other interesting stuff...

- Noflojs – flow based programming
 - Dates back to 1970. J. Paul Rodker
 - IMHO, not really practical, but a fresh take on thinking about how to program.
- Gstreamer/Pitivi.
 - Good progress and very useful tools. Sadly I know little about neither.
- SDAP – GNOME Surveying tool
 - Automate paper-based surveying. Academic use for now. A complement for SurveyMonkey, as I think of it.
- Libreoffice: reuse, libraries and etc.
- Usability themes
 - Usability tests conducted like behavior/psychological experiments.

Other interesting stuff... (cont.)

- Open funding
 - Fine-grained, feature-wise crowd funding like kickstarter. Some good thoughts on the business model.
- Open Design
 - How designers design in open source community. The advice given by the speaker look interestingly like those in Agile development: paired-dev-design, team building and etc.
- GNOME Hardware Testing initiative
 - On real hardware in contrast to GNOME Continuous. (sorry, can't find the link)
 - Automatic Desktop Testing is a hot topic these days.

In my opinions...

- Good to know something.
 - Know the people who writes the code ;P
- Open Source is biased
 - It's a Business model and affected by the business.
- Long term view is more suitable for FOSS
 - It's the personal interests, the belief in the vision makes FOSS tick.

Amendaments, comments Q&A

Thank you.



